

ROME CITY COMMISSION

Monday, February 9, 2026

The Rome City Commission met at 6:30 p.m. this date in the City Commission Chambers of City Hall, 601 Broad Street. Mayor Bojo presided with Mayor Pro Tem Robinson, and Commissioners Brock, Cochran, Beeman, Fisher, Hixon, Collins, and McDaniel present. Mayor Pro Tem Robinson opened the meeting with prayer and led in the salute to the flag.

Minutes – January 26, 2026

The Minutes of the January 26, 2026, meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by unanimous consent.

Arbor Day 2026

Commissioner Beeman presented a joint City/County proclamation recognizing Friday, February 13, 2026, as Arbor Day in our community. The 2026 Arbor Day event will take place at the North Stars Park, located on N Broad Street. This proclamation was presented to Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Program Director Hannah Bagley. Ms. Bagley briefly addressed the commission, speaking about events planned regarding Arbor Day and Rome as a Tree City.

Ron Swinford

Mr. Ron Swinford, who lives in the Celanese community, addressed the City Commission concerning water issues related to proposed data centers.

Mr. Swinford stated that, based on his research, the City of Rome currently uses approximately 6.25 million gallons of water per day, and Floyd County uses approximately 3.9 million gallons per day. The City of Rome has a current maximum production capacity of approximately 18 million gallons of water per day, and Floyd County has a maximum production capacity of approximately 8.7 million gallons per day.

Mr. Swinford stated that the two proposed data centers targeted for the Coosa area could use up to 5 million gallons of water per day each. While Swinford acknowledged that the proposed data center for the former Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital site, water consumption is unknown, he estimates that usage to be approximately 4 million gallons per day. Furthermore, Swinford mentioned that a data center is proposed for the Shannon area, which would use approximately 1 million gallons of water per day. Based on Swinford's estimations, these four data centers could use up to 15 million gallons of water per day. These data center water demands, along with other water demands from the City and the County, would press our needs beyond production capacity.

Brad Padgett

Mr. Brad Padgett, 8 Oakwood Street, addressed the City Commission concerning data centers. Mr. Padgett referenced the potential water and power usage by data centers that are proposed in our community. He cited that 1% of global electricity production currently goes towards the operation of data centers, and that number is expected to rise. Furthermore, Mr. Padgett stated that data centers produce environmental pollution, especially in the form of toxic heavy metals that eventually are in

landfills. Backup generators for data centers can also contribute to airborne pollutants. Mr. Padgett stated that the proposed data center at the former Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital – Battey Site is one of the worst possible locations. Data centers should only be located in sparsely populated areas.

Kristie Miner

Ms. Kristie Miner, resident of the Summerville Park neighborhood, addressed the City Commission. Ms. Miner made reference to her visit to the City Commission in December of 2025 and her accusation that the Rome/Floyd Development Authority met in violation of the Georgia Open Meetings requirements. Ms. Miner stated that a complaint has been filed with the Georgia Attorney General’s office and that a mediation process has been opened. Two complaints were filed with the Attorney General:

1. The August 27, 2026, Development Authority meeting was not properly noticed.
2. Not all details, as required by law, were released to the public prior to the vote.

Ms. Miner specifically commented on City Attorney Andy Davis’s response to the Attorney General regarding her allegations. She accused Mr. Davis of not being truthful with his statements and using a “defensive tone” in a character attack towards her. Furthermore, Ms. Miner implied that Mr. Davis has attacked others in addition to herself.

Ms. Miner made comments regarding her history of fighting tyranny in the United States and as a citizen advocate who was forced out of the State of Maine before landing in Georgia. Ms. Miner announced that she will be entering the Georgia House of Representatives District 13 race as a republican candidate.

Adam Milam

Mr. Adam Milam, N Avery Road, addressed the City Commission concerning data centers and read the following statement:

“Community Protections & Accountability for Large Data Center Developments

Purpose

As Rome City & Floyd County considers multiple large-scale data center developments – some adjacent to neighborhoods and schools – residents are asking for clear, enforceable protections to ensure public health, property values, and quality of life are preserved alongside economic growth.

This document outlines reasonable, commonly used safeguards that can accompany projects of this scale.

Why this Matters

These data centers represent heavy industrial use introduced into or near residential areas. They are permanent, 24/7 operations with long-term impacts that extend well beyond construction. Economic development is important, but the costs of industrial adjacency should not fall solely on nearby families.

Key Community Concerns

- *Noise from cooling systems and backup generator testing*
- *Electromagnetic fields (EMF) from high-voltage electrical infrastructure*

- *Light pollution from security and operational lighting*
- *Visual and land-use impacts*
- *Property value risk*
- *Proximity to schools and children*

Reasonable Safeguards Used Elsewhere

Baseline Testing: Pre-construction and EMF measurements with public documentation.

Monitoring & Transparency: Independent, third-party monitoring with public access to data.

Enforceable Standards: Clearly defined noise limits, generator testing restrictions, and penalties.

Physical Mitigation: Enhanced buffers, landscaping, sound walls, and directional lighting.

Resident Protections: Clear complaint processes and defined enforcement authority.

What Residents Are Asking For

1. *Baseline environmental testing before construction*
2. *Ongoing, independent monitoring*
3. *Clear and enforceable operation limits*
4. *Transparency and public reporting*
5. *Discussion of formal mitigation or community protection measures*

Closing Thought

Strong growth is measured not only by dollars invested, but by how well a community protects its people while it grows.”

City of Civility Resolution

A resolution was presented to extend Rome’s certification as a Georgia Municipal Association’s City of Civility. The City of Civility program was started in 2024 by the Georgia Municipal Association and Rome became one of the qualifying cities at that time. This two-year designation has now expired, and, if the City of Rome wishes to continue as a designated City of Civility, a new resolution will need to be adopted.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt the resolution for the City of Rome’s Pledge to Support and Promote Civility in the City of Rome and the Seven Standards of Behavior. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion.

Commissioner Collins questioned if the two newly elected officials were familiar with this program. Commissioner Fisher stated that the Rome Board of Education has a similar designation. Commissioner Hixon stated he was in support of the resolution.

With the comments concluded, the motion to adopt the resolution was approved by the following vote:

YES: Robinson, Brock, Beeman, Fisher, Hixon, Collins, and McDaniel

NO: Cochran

Convenience Store and Gas Station Moratorium Cancellation

Commissioner Robinson explained that the City of Rome has a moratorium in place prohibiting the development of new convenience stores and gas stations. During this moratorium period, the City of

Rome has developed new convenience store and gas station development standards and adopted an ordinance to amend the Unified Land Development Code for this purpose on January 26, 2026. As a result of the new ordinance, the moratorium is no longer needed. Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt a resolution cancelling this moratorium. Commissioner Fisher seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Rezoning – First Reading

Rome/Floyd Planning Director Brice Wood stated that the following rezoning file was ready for first reading:

- a) Z26-02-03 – Request to rezone from High Density Traditional Residential to Multi-family Residential for the properties located at 202 Waddell Street, Nelm Street, Stonewall Street, and 203 Stonewall Street, Georgia 30161; Floyd County Tax Parcels J13P032, J13P031, J13P030, K13Y553, K13Y552. (Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions, 9-0).

A public hearing for this request will be held at the February 23rd City Commission meeting.

Rome/Floyd Development Authority

Mayor Bojo announced that the Rome/Floyd Development Authority will meet on Tuesday, February 17th at 9:00 a.m. at 800 Broad Street.

Landbank Authority – Melinda Brown

Mayor Bojo announced that one of the positions on the Rome/Floyd Landbank Authority is a jointly appointed position that requires action by both the City of Rome and the Floyd County Commission. Bojo further stated that the Joint Services Committee has recently met and recommended that Ms. Melina Brown be appointed to this position. Ms. Brown is being placed in nomination at tonight’s meeting and a vote on her appointment will be scheduled for the February 23rd City Commission meeting.

Mechanical Permit Fee Resolution

City Manager Rich explained that the Joint Development Oversight Committee has recommended a change to the Rome and Floyd County mechanical permit fee structure. These permits are required for heating and air equipment installations. The existing permit schedule will be amended to include only two fee schedule options, a residential flat fee of \$90 and a non-residential flat fee of \$250. The reinspection fee would remain at \$60. Mr. Rich further stated that this new simpler fee schedule will also result in a lower permit fee for these applications.

Commissioner Brock moved to approve the new fee schedule as submitted. Commissioner Cochran seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Downtown Development Authority

Commissioner Brock announced that the Downtown Development Authority will meet on Thursday, February 12th at 8:30 a.m. at the Milner Building. Mr. Brock noted that he will be out of town on this date but will solicit a fellow Commissioner to attend in his absence.

Rome/Floyd Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Brock announced that the City of Rome and Floyd County Commission will hold a joint Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 17th at 12:00 p.m. at the Parker Center (1325 Kingston Road). At 12:30 p.m., the group will depart for a tour of local parks managed by Rome/Floyd Parks and Recreation.

Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Beeman announced that the Historic Preservation Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th has been cancelled.

Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Commission

Commissioner Beeman announced that the annual Arbor Day Celebration will be held on Friday, February 13th at 1:00 p.m. at North Stars Park (1148 N Broad Street).

Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Award

Commissioner Beeman announced that Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful was recently honored with the 2025 Governor’s Circle Award. This award was presented to the foundation for its shared commitment in litter reduction, recycling, and community beautification.

John Stevenson

Commissioner Beeman announced the recent passing of Mr. John Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson has been very active in our community throughout his life. A proclamation will be presented at Mr. Stevenson homegoing service.

Public Works/Traffic/Transit and Trails Committee

Commissioner Fisher announced that the Public Works/Traffic/Transit and Trails Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sam King Room.

Recycling Center Deficit Approval

City Manager Rich stated that the Recycling Center has an operating deficit for the fourth quarter of 2025. The deficit for the fourth quarter of 2025 is in the amount of \$36,866.09 each for the City of Rome, Floyd County, and the Solid Waste Commission. Commissioner Beeman moved to approve the City of Rome and the Solid Waste Commission’s payments of \$36,866.09 each. Commissioner McDaniel seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Alcohol Control Commission

Commissioner Hixon announced that the Alcohol Control Commission is scheduled to meet on Monday, February 16th at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

This meeting has been cancelled.

Library Board

Commissioner Hixon announced that the Library Board will meet on Thursday, February 19th at 4:00 p.m. at the Rome/Floyd County Library.

Planning Commission – Jake Hagar Resignation

Commissioner Hixon announced that Mr. Jake Hagar, a City appointed member of the Rome/Floyd County Planning Commission, has recently announced his resignation.

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Commissioner Collins announced that the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission continues to be active and part of their activities is to pursue grant opportunities, more information regarding these grants will be forthcoming. One of the grant applications will be for the construction of restrooms at Eagle Park.

Bishop Norris Allen – Black History Month

Commissioner Collins asked Bishop Norris Allen, who was in attendance at tonight’s meeting, to stand and make brief comments regarding civil rights displays.

The 2026 Black History Month program will take place at 5:30 p.m. prior to the City Commission meeting on February 23, 2026.

Committee on Committee Nominations – Downtown Development Authority and Alcohol Control Commission

Commissioner McDaniel announced that the Committee on Committees is recommending the nomination of Ms. Callette Hollingsworth to serve on the Downtown Development Authority and that Ms. Taylor McMichael and Mr. Doug Phipps be reappointed to serve additional terms on the Alcohol Control Commission.

These nominations are being made tonight, and a vote is scheduled for the February 23rd City Commission meeting.

GMA Spring Conference Training

Mayor Bojo announced that the Georgia Municipal Association Spring Conference and Training will take place February 12th and 13th. Some City Commissioners will attend this training.

Adjourn

With there being no further business, Mayor Bojo adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith
City Clerk